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Organization:	The Puget Sound Center Foundation for Teaching, Learning, and Technology
Project Name:	Communities Connect Network
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	Washington
Federal Award:	\$4,169,734

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Many low-income families in Washington State report not having access to broadband services, limiting their access to the education, job and health information, and the civic tools that information technology provides. To address this concern, the **Puget Sound Center Foundation for Teaching, Learning, and Technology** is proposing to expand the capacity of local public computing centers, enhancing broadband adoption, workforce preparation, digital literacy, education, and justice resources and training. The project will serve the unemployed, low-income housing residents, people with disabilities, immigrants, and youth through libraries, non-profits, and justice centers in Washington State. The project proposes to provide GED, ESL and financial educational services to at-risk and economically vulnerable populations, as well as to partner with local businesses to provide "train-the-trainer" services to build capacity at the computer centers. Five rural courts will also serve as computer centers, where residents can apply for public assistance, access online legal resources, government and human resources information, and seek the help of legal volunteers.

The Communities Connect Network also proposes to:

- Establish four new public computer centers, upgrade as many as 35 more, deploying approximately 200 new computer workstations while upgrading more than a hundred more.
- Enable access for over 4,000 new users each week, serving almost 9,000 weekly users in total. The project also proposes to train over 6,000 residents with approximately 40,000 hours of teacher-led training over its two-year life.
- Partner with Northwest Justice Project to provide free civil legal assistance and representation to low-income people and communities for high-demand legal issues affecting basic human needs such as family safety and security, housing preservation, protection of income, access to health care, education, and other basic needs.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The mission of the Puget Sound Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (recently renamed the EdLab Group) is to leverage the power of technology, diversity, and leadership to transform teaching and learning.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Street Youth Ministries
- YMCA of Greater Seattle
- Chinese Information and Service Center
- New Futures Technology Labs
- Lopez Island Family Resource Center
- Edith Bishel Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Neighborhood House
- Yakima Interfaith Coalition d/b/a La Casa Hogar
- Associated Recreation Council (RecTech)
- Northwest Justice Project
- University of Washington
- Workforce Development Council of Seattle
- NPower Seattle

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

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